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Montana mandolin society plans Missoula concert

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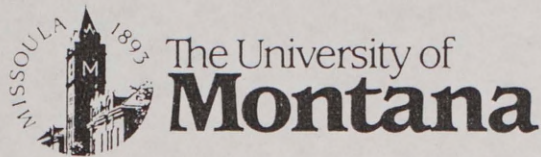
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NEWS RELEASE

May 2, 2002

Contact: Lori Brockway, business manager, Montana Mandolin Society, (406) 587-7198; Tom Webster, director, University Theatre Productions, 243-2853.

MONTANA MANDOLIN SOCIETY PLANS MISSOULA CONCERT

MISSOULA--

From historic waltzes, gallops, marches, rags and tangos to contemporary, original compositions, the Montana Mandolin Society's repertoire is as eclectic as the orchestra itself.

Nearly a dozen members include a 16-year-old girl, a ski patroller/river guide, a research librarian and several music instructors. Besides mandolins, members of the Bozeman-based group play guitar, bass, violin, banjo and hammer dulcimer, among other instruments. The band has performed everywhere from Yellowstone Park's Old Faithful Inn to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., taking audiences on a journey back to the graceful age of horse-drawn carriages, lamplight parlors and Sunday picnics.

The Montana Mandolin Society will come to Missoula Saturday, May 11, for a 7:30 p.m. concert in the University Theatre at The University of Montana. Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for UM students and Missoula Folklore Society members. They are available at all Tic-It-E-Z locations or by calling (888) MONTANA or 243-4051 in Missoula.

Inspired by a 1902 photograph of the 28-member Bozeman Mandolin and Guitar Club, Bozeman musician Dennis White formed the Montana Mandolin Society in 1999 with the help of business manager Lori Brockway. The band now has two CDs to its credit: "As Far As I Can See" and "The Bridger Waltz," released in March.

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Carrying out its mission of education, preservation and community service, the band has since toured throughout Montana, performing in historic buildings and conducting educational workshops for schoolchildren. The society also has gathered national acclaim, with invitations to perform at the Kennedy Center, the Seattle Center and festivals in Japan, as well as an appearance on NPR's "All Things Considered."

The orchestra hosted the annual convention of the Classical Mandolin Society of America in Bozeman last year.

For more information, visit the Montana Mandolin Society on the Web at www.montanamando.com.

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